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SUBJECT: OAS SECRETARY GENERAL INSULZA ON DEMOCRACY AND  
DIFFICULTIES IN THE HEMISPHERE

1. OAS Secretary General Jos Miguel Insulza spoke last night, June 2, to the annual conference participants of the Caribbean Studies Association, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Diplomats and other guests invited the event organized by President Fernandez's think-tank, the Foundation for Development and Democracy (FUNGLODE). Insulza was there in response to an invitation that had been extended before he ran for the OAS position.

2. In his remarks Insulza said Haiti, Bolivia, and certain countries in South America are facing democratic problems. Underlying all of these are the basic issues of democracy, governability, human rights, poverty, inequality, and insecurity.

3. Further points:

#### Strengthening Democracy

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- - The Inter-American Democratic charter was signed with much moment. It was about democracy. We in the OAS take our commitment to democracy seriously, and it needs to be about actions with results, not just principles.

- - There are many people in the hemisphere who live on less than \$200/year. Democracy isn't impossible with these conditions, but it's harder.

- - There is substantial support for democracy, but in some polls, it is not as strong as other polls indicate ) maybe only 50 percent of the population thinking that democracy is the best system to deliver results.

- - At heart, the problem underlying democracy is weak institutions ) and democracy is critically linked with governability. It has to do with basic state functions such as the ability of the state to collect taxes, to provide a functioning police and justice system, etc.

- - Institutional development to protect human rights also needs to be strengthened.

#### Working on Security

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- - In addition to democracy, security is another key area for the OAS, particularly in terms of arms and gangs.

#### Weighing in on International Issues

- - The OAS should express a regional opinion about the big international issues of the day. It hasn't done that, but it should begin.

#### Social Charter

- - Insulza mentioned the social charter briefly (&We will work on that ) we need it to deliver(8)

In the press conference that followed, Insulza reportedly commented:

- - There should be multilateral mechanisms to help countries who solicit that help when there is a rupture of democracy.

- -The OAS has to use the democracy-strengthening initiative to adopt active measures in place BEFORE a democratic crisis erupts. There must be working groups and/or adequate contacts to identify the problems occurring in each country. He hopes the General Assembly will give the Secretariat General a mandate to work on these issues with greater calm and to find the necessary consensus between countries to make this a reality.

- - Haiti's situation is worsening, in a manner that could threaten the electoral process. The OAS has a specific responsibility to advise Haiti on the elections.

- - Bolivia is confronting a social crisis that threatens government stability. The OAS is monitoring the situation

and has been in contact with the president. The OAS accepts the Bolivian decision for the OAS not to participate in helping the resolve the conflict. GOB has to ask for help if it should wish to receive it.

- - Replying to a question about Cuba, Insulza said that Cuba shouldn't divide the OAS membership ) discussion should reach consensus.

Hertell